



**Essay Rubric**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay and Slogan Contest**  
**Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes**

(33.3%) Research and understanding the First Amendment

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| • Limited or no understanding                                                                                                              | 3  |
| • Basic understanding of subject with minimal confusion                                                                                    | 6  |
| • Thorough understanding of the concepts presented in the prompt                                                                           | 9  |
| • Mastery of the concepts with application of the importance of voting and the protection guaranteed by freedom of speech and of the press | 12 |

(33.3%) Idea development/support

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| • Minimal idea development; limited and/or related details                                                                    | 3  |
| • Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated and/or repetitious ideas                                                        | 6  |
| • Depth of idea development supported by elaborated, relevant details                                                         | 9  |
| • Depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, engaging, and pertinent details; evidence of analysis, reflection, insight | 12 |

(11.1%) Organization

- |                                                  |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| • Random and/or weak organization                | 1 |
| • Lapses in organization, focus and/or coherence | 2 |
| • Logical, coherent, focused organization        | 3 |
| • Subtle and sophisticated organization          | 4 |

(11.1%) Sentence structure

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| • Weak structure, weak verbs, incomplete sentences or run-on sentences, dangling participles | 1 |
| • Some structural weaknesses with weak verbs                                                 | 2 |
| • Minimal use of weak verbs, no incomplete sentences or run-on sentences                     | 3 |
| • Strong sentences, varied in length, sound verbs, minimal use of “there are”                | 4 |

(11.1%) Grammar/Correctness

- |                                                                                                             |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| • Excessive errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar                                    | 1 |
| • Some errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar that do not interfere with communication | 2 |
| • Minimal errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar relative to length and complexity    | 3 |
| • Control of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization                                                      | 4 |